



**February 16, 2017**

**Appropriations Committee Public Hearing Testimony**

Good Evening Chairpersons and Members of the Appropriations Committee. My name is Sarah Raskin and I am from West Hartford, CT.

I am submitting this testimony in opposition to THE GOVERNOR'S BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS FOR HUMAN SERVICES PROGRAMS. In his proposal, the Governor seeks to reduce funding for the Services for Persons with Disabilities line item, which includes the Brain Injury Alliance of Connecticut, by 20%.

I have had the pleasure of supporting the Brain Injury Alliance of Connecticut (BIAC) for the past 20 years and currently serve as the Chair of their Board of Directors. I have seen during this time the vital and important work that BIAC does as the only resource in the state for people with brain injury.

Simply state, the services provided by BIAC are ones that the state cannot provide and thus are essential services. The Department of Social Services does not provide these services and, in fact, depends solely on BIAC to do so. BIAC has received an operating grant from the Department of Social Services for the past 35 years to provide entirely free resources and supports which the State is unable to provide. This includes services that are required as part of the Medicaid ABI Waiver program. Without BIAC, the ABI Waiver program would not be able to be in compliance with CMS.

A 20% reduction in funding would severely impact BIAC and the services they provide to the community. Please maintain funding for the Services for Persons with Disabilities line so that BIAC can be there for those who need them most.

I thank you for your past support of BIAC and urge you to reject the budget that contains this reduction in funding to BIAC.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sarah A. Raskin". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'S' and 'R'.

Sarah A. Raskin, PhD.